

POLICY

When seeking services for a delinquent youth, the juvenile justice specialist (JJS) must refer the ward to appropriate community resources.

Any youth, age 18 and older, without an identified housing situation, must be referred to a housing resource prior to case closure. Housing resources include homeless youth/runaway contractors and other local housing resources. Housing must be a key element of a reintegration plan started early in case management and must be consistent with achieving the permanency goal.

The JJS must document the referral in the juvenile justice service plan.

PURPOSE

To ensure homeless and runaway youths are aware and knowledgeable of available services in their area to address the problem of homelessness and lack of care. To provide temporary resources to deter criminal behavior, ensure wellness and dignity, and promote community safety.

AUTHORITY

The Social Act Welfare, 1939 PA 280, as amended, MCL 400.115b(1).

PROCEDURE

The JJS must ensure that any youth 16-20 who is homeless and/or a runaway is able to access the appropriate agency.

**Homeless and
Runaway
Services**

Homeless youth services must be provided to any youth, ages 16-20, who is without permanent shelter and without appropriate supervision and care. The services must be provided through contracts with private, non-profit agencies.

Services provided include:

- 24-hour crisis intervention services.
- Supervised living.

- Advocacy and support services.
- Independent living skills.
- Employment and educational assistance.
- Information and referral services.
- Counseling.

For any youth being referred to the homeless youth/runaway program, the JJS must complete the DHS-956, Foster Youth Housing Referral, and send it to the local homeless youth/runaway contractor; see FOM 722-15, Housing Source Referral.

A youth that has an open case is not eligible for services under the homeless youth/runaway contract. To facilitate a successful transition, the contractor may meet with the youth, the JJS, and other identified service providers, as agreed to by the youth, for up to two months prior to case closure. The plan for housing and the youth's consent must be documented in the final Updated Service Plan.

A youth that is in escape status is not eligible for services under the homeless youth/runaway contract, as the juvenile justice case remains open. Once the juvenile justice case is closed, the youth may be eligible at that time.

Accessing Services

Services for homeless/runaway youth may be accessed at:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/fyit/HomelessYouthAndRunawayContractors_343523_7.pdf